

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 4, 8 and 9 as shown below.

The following is a complete list of all claims in this application.

1. (Previously Presented) A porous pitch-based foam produced from a mesophase carbon derived from at least one of a petroleum pitch and a coal tar pitch exhibiting a softening point above about 300° C, and having a density ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm³.

2. (Previously Presented) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 1 wherein said coal tar or petroleum pitch exhibits a softening point ranging from about 300°C to about 400° C.

3. (Previously Presented) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 1 having a compressive strength below about 6000 psi.

4. (Currently Amended) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 1 that has been further carbonized.

5. (Previously Presented) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 1 that has been further graphitized.

6. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a carbon foam from a mesophase carbon particulate derived from a petroleum or coal tar pitch exhibiting a softening point above about 300° C, comprising:

placing mesophase carbon particulate in a mold;

heating said mesophase carbon particulate in said mold under a non-oxidizing atmosphere to a temperature ranging from about 300° C to about 700° C and soaking at this temperature for a period of from about 10 minutes to about 1 hour to form a green foam; and

controllably cooling said green foam.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said coal tar or petroleum pitch exhibits a softening point ranging from about 300°C to about 400° C.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said ~~inert~~ non-oxidizing atmosphere is applied at a pressure of from about 50 psi to about 500 psi.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said temperature is achieved using a heat-up rate ~~[[of]]~~ ranging from about 2° C to about 10° C per minute.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said controlled cooling is accomplished at a rate of less than about 10° C/min to a temperature of about 100° C.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said mesophase carbon particulate derived from a petroleum or coal tar pitch exhibiting a softening point above about 300° C is produced by thermal treatment or solvent extraction of said petroleum or coal tar pitch.

12. (Previously Presented) A porous pitch-based foam produced from a mesophase carbon derived from a petroleum or coal tar pitch exhibiting a softening point above about 300° C, and having a density of ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.8 g/cm³ produced by a method comprising:

placing mesophase carbon particulate in a mold;

heating said mesophase carbon particulate in said mold under a non-oxidizing atmosphere to a temperature of ranging from about 300° C to about 700° C to form a foam.

13. (Previously Presented) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 12, wherein said coal tar or petroleum pitch exhibits a softening point ranging from about 300°C to about 400° C.

14. (Previously Presented) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 12, wherein said non-oxidizing atmosphere is applied at a pressure ranging from about 50 psi to about 500 psi.

15. (Previously Presented) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 12, wherein said temperature is achieved using a heat-up rate ranging from about 2° C to about 10° C per minute.

16. (Previously Presented) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 12, further comprising the step of controllably cooling the foam at a rate of less than about 10° C/min to a temperature of about 100° C.

17. (Previously Presented) The porous pitch-based foam of claim 12, wherein said mesophase carbon particulate derived from a petroleum or coal tar pitch exhibiting a softening point above about 300° C is produced by thermal treatment or solvent extraction of said petroleum or coal tar pitch.